



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Firmin Garcia et al.) PATENT APPLICATION
Serial No.: Serial No. 09/775,868) VAL1599P0230US
Filed: February 2, 2001) Group Art Unit: 3754
For: FIXING DEVICE AND A) Confirmation No. 3954
DISPENSER USING SUCH)
A FIXING DEVICE)
Examiner: Joseph A. Kaufman)

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RECEIVED

MAR 03 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This is in response to the non-final Official Action Paper No. 8 dated November 24, 2003.

--Transmittal Letter

An attached Transmittal Letter presents a fee calculation and authorizes a charge to a Deposit Account if required.

--Fee For Additional Claims

Enclosed is a check for the fee for the presentation of additional claims.

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**REQUEST TO WITHDRAW HOLDING OF
NON-RECEIPT OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT**

Applicants request that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Item 12(a)(1) of the Official Action Summary indicates that “None of: Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.”

Applicants submit herewith a copy of the previously submitted original certified copy of the priority document Brevet D’Invention Certificat D’Utilité No. 00.13567 filed in France on October 23, 2000.

Applicants also submit herewith a copy of the previously submitted “RESPONSE TO NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION” received in the U.S. Patent Office on June 12, 2001, which Response identifies the submission of the certified copy of priority document FR 00.13567.

Applicants also submit herewith a copy of the self-addressed, return postcard which was sent to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office with the “RESPONSE TO NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION” and certified copy of the priority document, and which was received by the Patent Office on June 12, 2001 as indicated by the Patent Office receipt stamp on the postcard. The postcard lists the enclosures as including, inter alia, the ““RESPONSE TO NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS,” and the certified copy of the priority document FR 00.13567.

In view of the proof of the receipt by the Patent Office of the certified copy of the priority document on June 12, 2001, and in view of the duplicate copy of the priority document and

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associated transmittal papers enclosed herewith, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge that the Patent Office has received the priority document.